



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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NATIONAL BROILER MARKET-AT-A-GLANCE



Trade sentiment was steady in the Midwest, irregular elsewhere. Demand covered the full range, but had best movement for limited retail ads and fast food specials. Supplies were overall sufficient for trade requirements. In the parts structure, trading was light with buying activity cautious and selective. Breast items were at least adequate, except for tenders which were close to tight and moving. Dark meat and wings were sufficient to at times close balanced. In production areas, live supplies were mostly moderate at desirable to heavy weights.

GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES The Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for next week's trading advanced .25 cents to 72.00 cents based on full truck load lots of ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds. This compares to 63.25 cents last year on February 19, 2003.

Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted prices on ice-packed parts for next week's trading.

ITEM	DOCK PRICE (CENTS PER POUND)
LINE RUN TENDERS	217.00
BREASTS - B/S	192.50
BREASTS - WHOLE	99.00
THIGH MEAT - B/S	119.00
LEG QUARTERS	39.00
WINGS	121.50

This information is supplied by the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Poultry Market News Service.

SOUTHERN Trade sentiment was mixed, but mostly steady. Demand was light to moderate, best for limited retail ads and fast food. Supplies were usually sufficient to handle trade needs. In the parts structure, tenders were close to tight and moving. Dark meat was well balanced to close, and the remaining breast items were available. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mixed, but mostly desirable weights.

NORTHEAST Trucklot buying interest on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was generally fair at best. Offerings of the 3 pound and lighter birds were adequate to balanced with the 2.5 pound weights in the best position. The 3.5 to 4 pound birds were adequate to available. Movement through retail and distributive channels was light to fair. The market tone was about steady. In the parts complex, breast items were at least adequate with boneless-skinless breasts noted as slightly more available at times. Dark meat items were generally sufficient. Wings were adequate to balance. Tenderloins were tight.

MIDWEST The whole broiler/fryer market tone was steady. Offerings of whole fryers and wogs were light with like trade interest. Fill in trade reported into the Chicago area at 70 cents on 3 up wog's. Retail and food service demand was irregular and covered the full range. Best demand was into fast food promotions and limited retail features. Retail features noted on a major brand at 40% off all items; whole fryers at 89 and 59 cents; roasters at 99 cents; boneless/skinless breasts at \$1.96; leg quarters at 39, 49 and 57 cents. Floor stocks remained adequate and maintained on an as needed basis. Sizes were desirable to occasionally heavy. Supplies of dark meat cuts and wings were in close balance, breast items adequate. Parts' trading was light overall with buyers cautious and price sensitive. Trade sentiment was steady to fully steady on wings and leg cuts, and steady to instances barely steady on breast items.

WESTERN The market tone was steady to fully steady. Offerings were generally adequate to cover trade needs. Retailer demand was fairly good overall, best to cover features in progress. Floor stocks were adequate.

CHICK PLACEMENT AND EGG SET TOTAL

19 STATES			PERCENT CHANGE
WEEK ENDING 02/14/04	2004	2003	<u>PREVIOUS YEAR</u>
EGGS SET	207,625	202,449	+03
CHICKS PLACED	166,259	167,871	0

Broiler Eggs Set In 19 Selected States Up 1 Percent

Commercial hatcheries in the 19-State weekly program set 208 million eggs in incubators during the week ending February 14, 2004. This was up 3 percent from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 83 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

Broiler Chicks Placed Up 3 Percent

Broiler growers in the 19-State weekly program placed 166 million chicks for meat production during the week ending February 14, 2004. Placements were up slightly from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from December 28, 2003 through February 14, 2004 were 1.17 billion, up 1 percent from the same period a year earlier.

WEEKLY FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING Based on the preliminary chick placements, the number of fryers available for the marketing during the week ending 27-Mar-04 is estimated at 154.3 million head. This compares to 155.1 million head the previous week and to 155.7 million head the same week a year ago, when the slaughter was 154.7 million head and the composite weighted average price 58.01cents per pound.

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

F.O.B. DOCK OR EQUIVALENT, ICED-PACKED, PRICES SHOWN ARE DAY OF SHIPMENT (INCLUDES CURRENT AND PRIOR NEGOTIATIONS), TRUCKLOT AND LESS THAN TRUCKLOT VOLUME, CENTS PER POUND. **FOR FEBRUARY 17th, SEE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17th REPORT**

ITEM	POUNDS (000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	870	183.00-260.00	184-188	191.67
TENDERLOINS	230	192.00-235.00	192-194	197.81
BREAST - LINE RUN	103	96.00-101.00	98-101	98.34
FRONT HALVES		TOO FEW TO REPORT		
LEGS	185	54.00-58.00	56-58	56.59
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	586	35.00-39.50	37-38	37.48
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	900	39.00-43.00	39-40	39.82
WINGS (WHOLE)	281	119.00-124.00	119-122	121.76
WINGS (CUT)	390	132.00-142.00	134-136	136.29
DRUMSTICKS		TOO FEW TO REPORT		
THIGHS		TOO FEW TO REPORT		
B/S THIGHS		TOO FEW TO REPORT		

WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS TRADING FOR FEBRUARY 18, 2004 — F.O.B. DOCK.

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	5-DAY AVERAGE
64.50 - 72.25	68.95	69.22

The Index is intended solely as an indicator of values for commodity-type product and does not represent industry's willingness to sell or ability to buy.

NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYER PARTS

Trucklot buying activity was remained cautious and selective as dealers kept floor stocks balanced and were content to assume product on a hand-to-mouth basis. Offerings of breast items were at least adequate with boneless-skinless breasts noted as slightly more available at times. Tenderloins remained tight. Dark meat cuts were generally sufficient. Wings ranged adequate to balanced. Movement through retail channels was light to no better than fair. Distributive draw was limited. The market tone was fully steady to firm on tenderloins, fully steady on boneless-skinless thighs, and about steady on the balance.

ICE PACKED BROILER/FRYER PARTS, DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, CENTS PER POUND

FEBRUARY 17, 2004				FEBRUARY 18, 2004			
ITEM	CURRENT NEGOTIATED TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOLUME /LBS	ITEM	CURRENT NEGOTIATED TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOLUME /LBS
BREAST - B/S	185	186.38	652,923	BREAST - B/S	185	184.63	489,367
TENDERLOINS	185-190	170.51	140,290	TENDERLOINS	190-195	181.99	125,580
BREAST - WITH RIBS	95-96	102.59	140,880	BREAST - WITH RIBS	95-96	102.70	125,160
BREAST - LINE RUN	95	98.57	124,280	BREAST - LINE RUN	95	97.68	119,200
LEGS	47-48	51.68	408,083	LEGS	47-48	52.75	302,082
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	38-39	39.07	588,224	LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	38-39	40.11	334,791
DRUMSTICKS	40-41	45.43	178,850	DRUMSTICKS	40-41	46.87	134,838
THIGHS	41-42	50.29	92,490	THIGHS	41-42	48.11	108,835
B/S THIGHS	111-112	112.70	70,030	B/S THIGHS	112-113	113.07	76,220
WINGS (WHOLE)	114-115	124.95	105,350	WINGS (WHOLE)	114-115	122.90	165,960
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	11.96	25,880	BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	11.80	40,280
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	35-40	34.36	18,250	LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	35-40	32.39	12,760
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	60-65	68.78	30,920	GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	60-65	70.07	18,560

INCLUDES: NY CITY METRO. AREA, RI, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, PA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG).

* TODAY'S NEGOTIATED SALES AS OF 11:30 A.M.

** WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE OF ALL GRADES AND BRANDS OF PRODUCT SHIPPED, OR TO BE SHIPPED AS OF 1:30 P.M.

ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER OF BROILER-FRYERS (IN THOUSANDS)

	ESTIMATED		ACTUAL		AVG WTS		AVG WTS	
	02/18	02/17	02/16	02/13	02/16	02/13	02/11	02/09
ALA	3,912	3,939	3,419	4,151	5.15	4.94	3,878	5.14
ARK	5,185	5,093	5,185	4,939	4.98	4.81	5,141	5.03
DELMARVA	2,180	2,117	2,173	2,103	5.35	5.26	2,174	5.44
KY-LA-TN	1,968	1,991	1,887	2,037	5.14	4.81	1,964	5.10
MISS	3,043	3,122	2,982	2,565	5.51	5.35	2,891	5.46
NC	2,418	2,379	1,636	2,463	6.24	6.46	2,221	6.37
TEXAS	2,286	2,247	2,323	2,694	5.14	5.01	2,175	5.19
TOTAL	20,992	20,888	19,605	20,952	5.27	5.17	20,444	5.33
MON-WED	62,392 (A)						62,164 (A)	

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 18-Feb is estimated to be 31,406,000 up 2.4 percent from a week ago and up 4.7 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 30,678,000; last year 29,999,000)

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY
DELIVERED TO RETAILERS**

	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	93-99
ROASTERS 4# & UP	95-105
HENS UNDER 5#	-
HENS OVER 5#	71-77
DUCKS	
RABBITS-WHOLE	
RABBITS-CUT UP	

SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY**DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS**

FRESH FRYERS	DRY PACK	104-106
	ICE PACK	102-103
ROASTERS 4# & UP	DRY PACK	105
	ICE PACK	109
HENS OVER 5#	DRY PACK	93-95
	ICE PACK	93
DUCKS		152-175

ESTIMATED U.S. LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTER

UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION FOR WEEK ENDING 21-FEB-04

	CURRENT WEEK	PREVIOUS WEEK
	02/21/04 (1)	02/14/04
CLASS	THOUSAND HEAD	
BRO-FRY	156,084 (2)	157,862
LT HENS	1,259	1,337
HVY HENS	1,399	1,461
CHECK TOTAL	158,742	160,660

(1)ESTIMATED

(2)The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 21-Feb-04 is 157.7 million head compared to 149.1 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 156.4 million head or 1.3 million less than estimated available. For week of 28-Feb-04 the estimated available is 156.8 million head.

WEEKLY COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS-SELECTED STGE CENTERS (INCL GOVT STOCKS) (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEY	PROCESSED POULTRY
	LBS	LBS
AM 02/16/04	153,937	38,664
AM 02/01/04	141,357	40,964
CHG	12,580	-2,300
PCT CHG	9	-6

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEYS			PROCESSED POULTRY		
	02/16/04	02/09/04	02/17/03	02/16/04	02/09/04	02/17/03
PACIFIC						
COAST	6,240	6,232	7,278	4,154	4,361	6,343
LOS ANGELES	446	448	1,390	2,163	2,150	3,669

CENTRAL MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY RTC HENS

READY-TO-COOK PRICES NEGOTIATED FOR DELIVERY TO FIRST RECEIVERS, U.S. GRADE A AND PLANT GRADE, 5 LBS. AND UP, FOR WEEK OF FEBRUARY 16, 2004

	RANGE
HENS ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	66-71

HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES

FOR 02/17/04

AI PAPERS REQUIRED TO SELL ALL OUT OF STATE POULTRY

	LOW	HIGH	AVG		LOW	HIGH	AVG
HEAVY FOWL lb.	.95	1.05	1.02	HEAVY FOWL ea.	-	3.00	-
LIGHT FOWL lb.	-	-	-	LIGHT FOWL ea.	-	-	-
MIXED FOWL lb.	.95	1.20	1.13	MIXED FOWL ea.	-	-	-
BANTAMS lb.	-	-	-	BANTAMS ea.	3.00	6.25	-
BROILERS lb.	.50	.90	.63	BROILERS ea.	-	-	-
ROASTERS lb.	-	-	-	ROASTERS ea.	-	-	-
FRYERS lb.	-	-	-	FRYERS ea.	-	-	-
CHICKS lb.	-	-	-	CHICKS ea.	-	.05	-
PULLETS lb.	-	-	-	PULLETS ea.	4.25	6.50	-
BUNNIES lb.	-	-	-	BUNNIES ea.	-	-	-
ROOSTERS lb.	.95	1.70	1.06	ROOSTERS ea.	-	9.00	-
GEESE lb.	-	-	-	GEESE ea.	-	-	-
TURKEYS lb.	-	-	-	TURKEYS ea.	-	-	-
DUCKS lb.	.85	1.25	1.17	DUCKS ea.	-	-	-
RABBITS lb.	.60	1.70	1.20	RABBITS ea.	-	-	-
PIGEONS lb.	-	-	-	PIGEONS ea.	2.75	7.25	-
GUINEA FOWL lb.	-	-	-	GUINEA FOWL ea.	5.50	8.00	-
DUCKLINGS lb.	-	-	-	DUCKLINGS ea.	-	-	-
GUINEA KEETS ea.	-	-	-	CALL DUCKS ea.	-	5.00	-
SILKIES ea.	-	-	-	GOSLINGS ea.	-	-	-
GUINEA PIGS ea.	-	-	-	TURKEY POULTS ea.	-	-	-
CHUKARS ea.	-	-	-				
TOTAL COOPS	96						

MAJOR WHOLESALE MARKETS - Mexico City

Cents per pound for the week ending February 13, 2004

	Whole Chickens	Breasts	Legs w/ Thighs	Necks,Back &Wings	Livers/Gizzards	Hens
RAYON						
Low	59.27	124.34	74.60	8.29	12.43	53.88
High	60.93	132.63	82.89	16.58	16.58	53.88
Mostly	60.10	132.63	82.89	12.43	16.58	53.88

SAN JUAN

Low	58.85	124.34	74.60	12.43	12.43	53.88
High	60.51	132.63	82.89	16.58	16.58	53.88
Mostly	60.51	124.34	74.60	16.58	16.58	53.88

NEW SAN JUAN

Low	58.85	124.34	74.60	8.29	12.43	51.81
High	60.51	132.63	82.89	16.58	16.58	51.81
Mostly	60.51	132.63	82.89	12.43	16.58	51.81

BECERRA

Low	60.10	124.34	74.60	12.43	12.43	53.88
High	60.51	132.63	82.89	20.72	16.58	53.88
Mostly	60.51	132.63	82.89	16.58	16.58	53.88

DELMARVA Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was fair to moderate and was generally noted as sufficient in keeping seller offerings in manageable balance. Live supplies were moderate; weights were mostly desirable to heavy. Processor schedules were moderate. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 77 to 87 cents. Trade sentiment was mostly steady. In the parts complex, tenders were generally well cleared. Breast items were adequate to fully adequate. Thighs were adequate to short. Other Leg cuts were at least adequate. Wings were increasing in availability.

*BROILER/FRYER CURRENT NEGOTIATED PRICES FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY INCLUDES MOSTLY MULTIPLE-DROP SHIPMENTS OF BRANDED AND WING TAGGED TO NEW YORK CITY FROM DELMARVA

	BRANDED U.S. GRADE A
RANGE	69-91
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	79.40
NO. OF BOXES	5,770

*7 of 7 plants reporting.

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